**Ancient Greece**

**Time periods**:

* Minoan Crete (2800 BCE) -earliest civilization in the Aegean region emerged on Crete
* Mycenaean civilization (1600-1100 BCE) -part of Indo-European family of people):
* Dark Age (1100-750 BCE)
* The Greek City States (polis in Greek) (750-500 BCE)
* Classical Greece: (500-338 BCE)

**Political Structure**:

Minoan Crete:

* Crete was ruled by a monarch from the central palace of Knossos. The first ruler (and the only one whose name is known) was the legendary King Minos, described by later Greeks as being the son of Zeus and appointed by the chief deity to reign over the island.
* The monarchy, however, was far from a totalitarian regime. Historian Richard Hooker describes the role of the King as a "chief entrepreneur or CEO" rather than a dictator. Numerous administrative decisions were shared a priesthood (which was mainly female) and an immense network of bureaucrats and scribes.

The Greek City States (polis in Greek):

* As a community, the polis consisted of citizens with political rights (adult male), citizens without political rights (woman and children), and noncitizens (slaves and resident aliens). All citizens of a polis possessed fundamental rights, but these rights were coupled with responsibilities
* The citizens not only belonged to themselves, they also belonged to the states. However this loyalty towards their city-states also made each city-state distrusted one another, and the division of Greece into fiercely patriotic independent units helped bring about its ruin.

Tyrants:

* Greek tyrants were rulers who came to power in an unconstitutional way; tyrant was not subject to the law. Rise of tyrant in the seventh and sixth centuries BCE
* Once in power, tyrants built new marketplaces, temples, and walls to enhanced their own popularity and glorified the city, they favours merchants and traders
* Tyranny was largely extinguished by the end of the sixth century BCE, Greek believed in the rule of law, and tyranny made a mockery of that ideal

Classical Greece:

* Confrontation between the Greek states and the mammoth Persian Empire
* In preparation of attack from the Persians, some of the Greek states formed a defensive league under Spartan leadership, while the Athenians pursued a new military policy by the navy.
* By the time of the Persian invasion in 480 BCE, the Athenians had produced a fleet of about two hundred vessels.
* Athens took over the leadership of the Greek world by forming a defensive alliance against the Persians called the Delian League in the winter of 478-477 BCE. By controlling the Delian League, Athens created an empire.

Age of Pericles:

* Athens embarked on a policy of expanding democracy at home and its new empire.
* The sovereignty of the people was embodied in the assembly, which consisted of all male citizens over the age of eighteen.
* Lower class citizens were eligible for public offices formerly closed to them and introducing state pay for officeholders.
* The overall directors of policy, a board of ten officials known as generals, were elected by public vote and were usually wealthy aristocrats, even though the people were free to select otherwise.
* The general could be re-elected, enabling individual leaders to play an important role
* Pericles, was elected to the generalship thirty times between 461-429 BCE

**Art, Architecture, Science and Technology**:

* Greek art was concerned with expressing eternally true ideals
* The classic style, based on the ideals of reason, moderation, symmetry, balance, and harmony in all things, was meant to civilize the emotions.
* The most important form of architecture was the temple dedicated to a god or goddess.
* At the center of Greek temples were walled rooms that housed the statues of deities and treasures in which gifts to the gods and goddesses were safeguarded. These central rooms were surrounded by a screen of columns that made Greek temples open structures rather than closed ones
* The column were originally made of wood but were changed to marble in the fifth century BCE
* The most significant formal element in Greek temples was the shape and size of the columns in combination with the features above and below the column.
* Ancient Greek Science & Technologies was highly developed compared to other places. Hippocrates excelled in the field of medicine and geometry was developed by Pythagoras and Euclid.
* The Greeks contributed a lot in the field of mathematics. Geometry was used to measure land as described by Herodotus. Pure numbers, applied numbers, magnitude in motion and stationary magnitude were widely used.
* The strange property of amber was discovered by the Greeks. It was discovered that if amber was rubbed with straw it would attract feathers or straw. Greek experiments revealed the fact that lodestone attracted small bits of iron.

**Intellectuals**:

* “Philosophy” is a Greek word that originally meant “love of wisdom”
* Early Greek philosophers were concerned with the development of critical or rational thought about the nature of the universe and the place of divine forces and soul in it

Sophists (5th century BCE):

* The Sophists, a group of philosophical teachers in the fifth century BCE
* They argued that understanding the universe was beyond the reach of the human mind
* They stressed the importance of rhetoric (the art of persuasive oratory) in winning debates and swaying an audience, a skill that was especially valuable in democratic Athens
* To them, there was no absolute right or wrong, true wisdom consisted of being able to perceive and pursue one’ own good.
* Because of those ideas, many people viewed the Sophists as harmful to society and especially dangerous to the values of young people

Socrates (469-399 BCE):

* Socrates left no writing of his own, but we know about him from his pupils, especially his most famous one Plato
* Socrates believed that all knowledge is within each person; only critical examination is needed to call it forth, the real task of philosophy, is “the unexamined life is not worth living”

Plato (429-347 BCE):

* Unlike his master Socrates, Plato wrote a great deal
* Plato’s ideas of government were set out in his dialogue titled *The Republic*
* He was fascinated with the question of reality. According to Plato, a higher world of eternal, unchanging Ideas or Forms has always existed. To know these Forms is to know truth. These ideal Forms constitute reality and can only be apprehended by a trained mind-which, of course, is the goal of philosophy

Aristotle (384-322 BCE):

* Aristotle studied at a school that Plato established at Athens known as the Academy for twenty years
* Aristotle became a tutor to Alexander the Great
* Like Plato, he wished for an effective form of government that would rationally direct human affairs
* Unlike Plato, he did not seek and ideal state based on the embodiment of an ideal Form of justice but tried to find the best form of government by a rational examination of existing government.
* Aristotle became a tutor to Alexander the Great

END OF PRESENTATION

**Timeline**:

Minoan Crete:

* 2800 BCE -earliest civilization in the Aegean region emerged on Crete, a large island southeast of the Greek mainland, it is a bronze civilization that used metals, especially bronze.
* 2000-1450 BCE -reached its height
* 1450 BCE -centers of Minoan civilization on Crete suffered a sudden and catastrophic collapse

Mycenaean civilization (part of Indo-European family of people):

* 1600-1100 BCE -the civilization flourished
* 1400-1200 BCE -reached its high point
* 1300 BCE -showing signs of serious trouble
* 1190 BCE -Mycenae (one of the major cities) was torched
* 1100 BCE -coming to an end

Dark Age (1100-750 BCE)

The Greek City States (polis in Greek) (750-500 BCE)

* 750-550 BCE -large numbers of Greeks left their homeland and settle in distant lands, colonization happened, two famous and powerful Greek city-states, Sparta and Athens emerged

Classical Greece: (500-338 BCE)

* 490 BCE -Persians landed an army on the plain of Marathon
* 338 BCE -Conquest of Greece by the Macedonian king Philip II